

Message Text

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66

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 028403

R 211550Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3374

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24880

E.C.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH CANTONAL ELECTIONS

REF: PARIS A-617, AUGUST 28, (NOTAL)

FRANCE WILL HOLD ELECTIONS IN EACH DEPARTMENT (EXCEPT PARIS)
FOR DEPARTMENTAL COUNCILS, SEPTEMBER 23 AND 30. TRADITIONALLY THE
LEAST POLITICAL OF FRENCH ELECTIONS, MOST OF THE APPROXIMATELY 1940
RACES WILL BE FOUGHT ON LOCAL ISSUES. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCILS HAVE
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LITTLE POWER, BUT SERVE AS LAUNCHING PADS FOR NATIONAL POLITICAL

CAREERS AND PROVIDE LOCAL BASES FOR DEPUTIES. PARTICIPATION IN CANTONAL ELECTIONS IS NORMALLY EXTREMELY LOW BY FRENCH STANDARDS AND IS LIKELY TO BE SO THIS TIME DESPITE THE FACT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF NEW URBAN CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS HAS BEEN CREATED. ALL NATIONAL PARTIES REPRESENTED AMONG CANDIDATES, AND ELECTIONS WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED FOR EVIDENCE OF CHANGE IN GOF POPULARITY, ALTHOUGH ONLY ROUGHEST INDICATION OF CURRENT GOF POPULAR SUPPORT LIKELY EMERGE FROM THESE ELECTIONS GIVEN THEIR LOCAL NATURE. UNIQUE FRENCH ELECTORAL SYSTEM MEANS THAT MOST RACES WILL BE DECIDED ONLY ON SECOND ROUND WHEN PLURALITY SUFFICES. FOR FIRST ROUND VICTORY, A CANDIDATE MUST HAVE AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF VOTES CAST (PROVIDED THIS IS MORE THAN 25 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE).
IRWIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS24880
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS IRWIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730919/aaaaanir.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARIS A-617, AUGUST 28, (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH CANTONAL ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005